Abstract

An audio recorder for interfacing with a speech recognition systems includes a microphone having an open front port that senses an audio signal and a closable back port which, when open, senses an audio signal. The microphone also produces an output signal representative of the audio sensed by the microphone. The recorder further includes a mode selector switch having two positions. The first position provides a close-talking mode in which the back port is open so that audio signals are sensed through both the front port and the back port to reduce representation of environmental noise in the output signal. The second position provides a conference-talking mode in which the back port is closed and audio signals are sensed through the front port only and environmental noise is not reduced. In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, a computer user interface provides access to an audio recorder and includes a communication module that generates an access request to a file manager of the audio recorder and an access interface coupled to the communication module. The access interface includes display regions that specify an audio recorder that may contain the audio files, an identity of a speaker who recorded the audio file, and an acoustic environment in which the audio file was recorded.